

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Yoshihiro KATSUMATA and  
Hideya KINOSHITA

Rule 53(b) Divisional Application of  
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/630,716

Group Art Unit:1711

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Examiner:

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert before the first line the sentence:

This is a divisional of Application No. 09/630,716 filed August 2, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 5-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claims:

09/630,716

**Preliminary Amendment**  
Rule 53(b) Divisional Application of  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/630,716

1 (amended). An ink wastage absorber for pigment or dye ink comprising a flexible polyurethane foam having an air-permeability of 1.0 cc/cm<sup>2</sup>/sec or more.

14 (amended). A process of producing an ink wastage absorber according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said surface active agent is a denaturated sodium succinate.

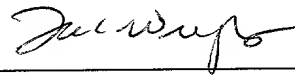
09/630,716

**Preliminary Amendment**  
Rule 53(b) Divisional Application of  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/630,716

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 13, 2001

09/630,716

**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**The following sentence is inserted before the first line:**

This is a divisional of Application No. 09/630,716 filed August 2, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 5-10 are canceled.**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1 (amended). An ink wastage absorber for pigment or dye ink comprising a flexible polyurethane foam having an air-permeability of 1.0 cc/cm<sup>2</sup>/sec or more.

14 (amended). A process of producing an ink wastage absorber according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said surface active agent is a denaturated sodium succinate.